

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 13, 14, 16-19, 22-26, and 28 are amended; claims 1, 4-12, 21, and 29-31 are canceled; and claims 32-35 are newly presented. Applicants request reconsideration and allowance in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Anticipation

Claims 1-19, 23, 24, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by EP 1,016,777. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

With regard to new claim 32 (which is based on original claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9), EP ‘777 does not disclose a device that is capable of providing counter-current heat exchange. Hence, the device of EP ‘777 is less efficient than the claimed device.

Moreover, EP ‘777 does not disclose a distribution section that is in communication with the first opening to lead the ingoing gas flow into the inlet gas flow passages with a second opening to lead the outgoing gas flow out from the outlet gas flow passages, wherein the distribution section comprises one set of channels which are open to the inlet gas flow passages and another set of channels that are open to the outlet gas flow passages.

With regard to claims 35 and 36 (which are based on original claims 1, 8, 9, 13, and 14 and claims 1, 8, 9, 13, and 14 and features from the specification, respectively), EP ‘777 does not disclose a device having a distribution section and a gas flow passage section wherein the distribution section and the gas flow passage section form separate units that are arranged together in such a way that gas can flow from one section to the other, wherein the distribution section and the gas flow passage section are joined to each other. Nor does it disclose that the distribution section comprises a wall structure forming at least one first channel to which the incoming gas flow is fed and a plurality of second channels that extend from the first channel, with the second channels being open to the gas flow passages that are intended for an incoming gas flow.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that EP ‘777 does not anticipate any of the claims, and Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 21, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Fratzer, U.S. 4,385,032. To the extent claims 21 and 31 are canceled, the rejection is moot. To the extent claim 1 is canceled in favor of new claim 32, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

In particular, Fratzer does not disclose a device for treatment of a gas flow comprising a body having “a substantially cylindrical shape” and a distribution section “comprising an internal cavity that extends in the longitudinal direction of the body” as required by new claim 32. Nor does Fratzer disclose a device where the distribution section comprises an internal cavity that extends in the longitudinal direction of the body, with one set of channels which are open to the inlet gas flow passages and another set of channels that are open to the outlet gas flow passages. The internal cavity of the distribution section is in communication with the first opening, but it is closed at an end opposite to the first opening. The internal cavity is open along the longitudinal direction to the set of channels of the distribution section which, in turn, are open to the inlet gas flow passages. No such distribution section may be defined in Fratzer. If, as Applicants believe is being suggested by the examiner, a portion near the inlet end 11 of the Fratzer device of is construed as the distribution section, this section will nevertheless not exhibit the features as set out above.

With regard to **new claim 35**, the Fratzer device does not comprise a distribution section and a gas flow passage section forming separate units. Moreover, Fratzer does not disclose a distribution section which comprises a wall structure forming at least one first channel to which the incoming gas flow is fed and a plurality of second channels that extend from the first channel and which second channels are open to the gas flow passages that are intended for an incoming gas flow.

With regard to **new claim 36**, the Fratzer device does not disclose a distribution section being also in communication with the second opening to also lead the outgoing gas flow out from the gas flow passages.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Fratzer does not anticipate any of the claims, and Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Obviousness

Claims 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over EP ‘777. To the extent claim 28 depends from new claim 32, Applicants submit that EP ‘777 does not disclose or suggest the features addressed above and therefore does not render the claim obvious. To the extent claim 29 is canceled, the rejection is moot. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 20, 22, and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on EP ‘777 in view of WO 02/29218. To the extent those claims depend directly or indirectly on claim 32, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to that claim.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance, and timely Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 6730.057.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner may directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Novak Druce + Quigg LLP
1000 Louisiana, Fifty-Third Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 571-3400
(713) 456-2836 (fax)
tracy.druce@novakdruce.com

Respectfully submitted,

/Tracy W. Druce/

Tracy W. Druce, Esq.
Reg. No. 35,493